

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 and 13 are pending in the application, with Claims 2-4 and 13 amended and Claims 1, 5, 6, 11, and 14-16 cancelled by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 4-6 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Halvis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,164,832) in view of Guidash et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,986,297); Claims 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Halvis et al. in view of Guidash et al. and Bluzer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,488,163); and Claims 2-3 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of the allowable subject matter.

Applicants request acknowledgement of the IDS filed on October 12, 2004.

Applicants traverse the outstanding rejection. However, to expedite progress toward allowance, the rejected claims are cancelled and the allowable dependent claims are placed in condition for allowance by way of the present amendment.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.


Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)


Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870
Michael E. Monaco
Registration No. 52,041